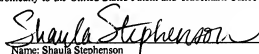


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	John H. Crabtree	Examiner:	Vy Q. Bui
Serial No.	10/671,764	Group Art Unit:	3731
Filed:	September 26, 2003	Docket No.	58934-010300
Title:	TUNNEL PORT APPARATUS WITH SERIAL GAS-CHECK ASSEMBLY		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this utility patent application is being transmitted electronically to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via the EFS Web e-Filing system on April 7, 2006.


Name: Shaulla Stephenson

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed March 9, 2006, kindly enter the following remarks.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has required that the election of the following inventions be made:

- I. Claims 14-26, drawn to a method, classified in class 606, subclass 108
- II. Claims 1-13 and 27, drawn to devices, classified in class 606, subclass 167

Responsive to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, "II" above, which Applicant believes corresponds to Claims 1-13 and 27 and the species in Figure 1.

With respect to the Examiner's comments regarding the species, Applicant believes the species are not independent because Figure 1 is the apparatus in a "procedure-ready state" and Figure 8 is the apparatus "in a separated post-procedural state."

Applicant has complied with all requirements made in the above-referenced communication. Accordingly, examination of this application on the merits is respectfully requested. Should matters remain, which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned agent.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number **50-2638**. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 58934-010300 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Darrow
Reg. No. 30,166

Date: April 7, 2006

Customer Number 33717
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